



Libertarian Party

NEWS

Three Practical Projects for Liberty: Census Privacy, Jury Nullification, NOA on the Ballot

Just Say Go Away

Sometime during April you will receive a demand from the federal government that you answer from 14 to 59 questions that clearly invade your privacy, trample on your First Amendment rights, and cost one billion dollars of your tax money.

It is the 1990 version of the census—a census which, under the Constitution, was enacted simply as a head count to apportion legislative representation.

Now, the bureaucrats have extended that founding-father purpose to include questions as to the name of your “partner” or “roommate,” your ethnic background, your proficiency in English, how much you earn and how you earn it, and the value of property that you own. Recipients of the questionnaires are threatened with a fine of between \$100 and \$500 for failure to answer the questions.

The Libertarian Party’s response has been the formation of a Committee for Census Privacy which is urging people to resist this latest assault against freedom and privacy.

Several choices of resistance are suggested.

- Flat-out resistance and refusal to

answer. (In the process of the 1970 census only two fines were levied against refuseniks. In 1980, cases involving the fines were routinely dropped in court.)

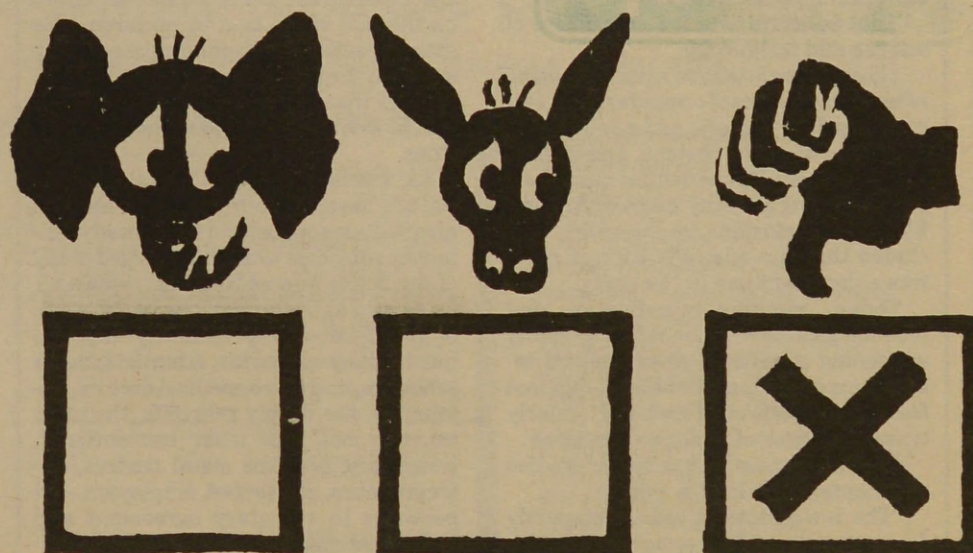
- Answering only those questions which are not seen as violating your right to privacy.

- Answering the questions but formally stating that you are doing it only under government threat.

- Writing your congressman and senators asking that they support the bills that have been introduced to make all answers except the head count ones voluntary.

- A novel, individualistic way of resistance is detailed elsewhere in this issue in a proposal by Bud Ruehle, a Pennsylvania libertarian activist.

The Libertarian Party’s Committee for Census Privacy is headed by Don Ernsberger and would welcome contributions to keep the pot boiling. The Committee may be addressed through the LP national office, 1528 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E., Washington, DC 20003.



No Lesser of Two Evils

More and more Americans have come to feel that every election gives them simply the choice between the lesser of two evils. But, as the Libertarian Party constantly has pointed out, “the lesser of two evils is still evil.”

One way to give that spirit of resistance to what the two oldest political parties have to offer would be to permit voters to have the chance to mark “None of the Above” (NOA) on their ballots (or vote for third party candidates!).

Nevada has offered a None of the Above ballot choice for several years but the action is simply “advisory.”

Libertarians in Vermont now are backing a law introduced into the Vermont legislature by John McClaughry, Republican state senator and former Reagan White House advisor. It would provide a None of the Above ballot choice which would have real impact.

If NOA received more votes than the leading “live” candidate, the contested office would be declared vacant and would have to be filled by whatever way is consistent with the state constitution, ranging from special elections for U.S. senators, congressmen, and state legislators, to election by the General Assembly for various state executive offices.

McClaughry, who calls his bill the “turkey ballot,” points out these other advantages: “It is also advocated as an incentive to voting, for prospective voters who stay home because they are disgusted with many or all of the candidates nominated for office. The turkey ballot option encourages voters to come to the polls to express their views in a more meaningful way than leaving a ballot blank or writing in Donald Duck.”

Wherever Libertarian Party candidates

can get on the ballot, of course, voters would have another option, but even libertarians would have to face the fact that many Americans are so fed up with politicians that they would vote NOA no matter who was running or on what platform.

For anyone wishing to support the Vermont effort or contact Sen. McClaughry for details of his NOA legislation, his address is Concord, VT 05824.

An interesting variation of NOA has been proposed by John Corl of the California Libertarian Party. In his proposal voters would be able to mark “yes” or “no” for each candidate. Only candidates with a “yes” majority would be eligible to fill an office. Similar legislation is reported as having been suggested in Oregon.

Not Guilty, You Say

Jury nullification is the power of juries to acquit if they disagree with the law being used to try a defendant.

Judges routinely refuse to permit juries even to be told of this power. Lawyers who dare bring it up have been held in contempt.

Yet, in the 1972 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *U.S. vs. Dougherty*, the high court ruled that the jury has the “unreviewable and irreversible power...to acquit in disregard of the instructions on law given by the trial judge...the pages of history shine on instances of the jury’s exercise of its prerogative to disregard instructions of the judge; for example, acquittals under the fugitive slave law.”

For several months now, Montana libertarians Larry Dodge and Don Doig have been trying to make jury nullification an open, popular, public issue by pressing for specific legislation demanding that judges specifically inform juries of the nullification power.

Initiatives which would accomplish such legislation have been filed in Arizona, Nevada, Montana, Colorado, and Idaho. Alaska, Arizona, and Wyoming

legislatures are considering what Dodge and Doig have called the Fully Informed Jury Amendment. Other libertarian activists are working to have such legislation submitted in Tennessee, Missouri, Iowa, and California.

Gun owners, in particular, have shown interest in the movement. As Gary Marbut, president of the Montana Rifle and Pistol Association, has written: “This power of jury nullification may well become the last peaceful barrier between constitutionally law-abiding gun owners and a tyrannical government bent on disarming the non-criminal public. When confiscatory gun laws are passed, no single person can be convicted or punished under those laws without the full agreement of twelve out of twelve of the gun owner’s ‘peers’ serving on his jury. If these peers understand their power to judge the law, convictions will be unlikely.”

The application of jury nullification to cases involving tax resistance seems equally impressive.

For more information on the Fully
continued on page 8

Inside

Viewpoint	page 2
Access	page 2
From the Chair	page 3
Ham It Up	page 4
Lord of DC	page 6
Campaign '90	page 6
Census	page 7
States	page 8
Letters	page 9
Greens	page 10
Events	page 12

Personality of the Party

By Karl Hess

Trying to find a distinct personality for the Libertarian Party is, in my view, simply impossible. Happily, also in my view, the party is almost as diverse as the continental society in which we live.

When I was able to travel, I attended party conventions and meetings in virtually every state and was wonderfully impressed by that diversity.

But within that diversity there is, nevertheless, at least an impressive "subculture" of which we should be sharply aware and whose interests we should think about seriously when contemplating political action.

That subculture is the subculture of science and technology.

I have never attended a party meeting where the presence of computer programmers, medical doctors, and scientific researchers was not obvious. David Bergland, former LP presidential candidate, after studying as many "personality profiles" of libertarians as he could, concluded that the scientific turn of mind was a dominant one in the party.

Today, scientific investigation and technological development face a rapidly worsening climate of governmental restrictions and of Luddite assaults against freedom of research. This is particularly true in the area of biological research.

Nobel Laureate David Baltimore has commented on it in this way:

"The new critical attitude stems partly from a society-wide skepticism about intellectuals and their activities...perhaps most clearly seen in our virtually thought-free political life...

"As scientific literacy diminishes and

research moves on to new frontiers [the] gulf widens."

Paul Berg, director of the Beckman Center for Molecular and Cellular Medicine at Stanford, says that "what is most frightening is the apparent politicalization of scientific research...If we interpose witch hunts and political oversight into the process of scientific discovery...we

endanger the fragile mechanisms that allow science to generate radical solutions, novel insights, and eventually major breakthroughs."

There is an opportunity, then, to make it known to as many non-libertarian scientists and technologists as possible that the Libertarian Party stands squarely on the side of freedom in research. The many scientists and technologists already active in the party should be encouraged to carry that message to their colleagues and to invite them to join party discussions.

(A caveat is that the Libertarian Party's devotion to freedom of research also includes opposition to the many tax-money subsidies which have forged many of the bonds now *entangling* research.)

As said at the outset, our party is one of greatly diverse personality: hippies, hard-money advocates, scientists, home schoolers, midwives, medical doctors, humanists, the deeply religious, the most conventional, the least conventional, smugglers, precious metal traders, entrepreneurs, employees, employers—all believers in voluntary agreement and individual responsibility.

For anyone to get the impression that we are some sort of monoculture or, worse, for the party actually to become a monoculture, would be terribly wrong.

Viewpoint

Ballot Access Report

By Steve Givot

The Ballot Access Committee (BAC) has begun marketing our small Pledge Program to a small group of past contributors. We are hopeful that those who have committed funds to BAC in the past will understand that we can be far more productive with their generous contributions if we don't have to pay the tremendous expenses of direct mail and telephone fundraising as well as fundraising commissions. If the current test is successful, we will send letters to all past contributors asking them to match their past generosity through the pledge program.

If you receive a letter, or if you are wondering how you can help, please keep in mind that every penny of net receipts from this year's pledges will go directly to ballot access. Printing costs, postage, and other production expenses are donated from other sources. Furthermore, these funds go to BAC 100 percent commission-free. If you ever wanted to give in a way that was 100 percent effective, this is it! For more information, please write LP BAC, Route 7, One Middlebury Road, Barrington Hills, IL 60010.

In cooperation with Project 51-'92, the Nevada ballot drive has been completed. BAC began the drive and welcomed the assistance of Project 51-'92 to conclude it. We have already completed petition drives in as many states as all of 1989. While this is hardly satisfactory, we are only in need of adequate funding to start activity in several other states, for the time being.

We are very pleased with our agreement with Project 51-'92 and Andre Marrou to delegate all lobbying efforts to them,

unless they or a specific state ask for assistance.

On the lobbying/legislative/litigation front, we are hopeful for relief in the following states:

Georgia—SB 639 would cut signature requirements in half. It would also permit the state convention to nominate candidates for partisan races that are not statewide. This passed the Senate 50-0.

Kansas—SB 59, endorsed by the Secretary of State, would cut political party petition requirements in half.

Massachusetts—activists may have succeeded in placing a ballot access initiative before the voters. Final certification has yet to be announced.

Missouri—HB 1417 would reduce signature requirements from about 24,000 to a flat 10,000. The bill has seven co-sponsors.

North Carolina—and Project 51-'92 have reached an agreement whereby 51-'92 will be able to contribute an unlimited amount to the NC ballot access drive.

A 10 percent showing by an LP candidate will make the LP a qualified party in Virginia for the first time. Richard Winger sent data substantiating that under such circumstances the third party candidate almost always gets the 10 percent. We need 13,687 signatures by June 12. That means we need money now!

Richard also reports that Russell Means is running for the Arizona legislature. If Russell runs as an independent he needs far fewer signatures than the 23,438 he needs as a Libertarian. Our friends in Arizona have already started, but as of the end of February, they have only 2,000 signatures. Can we afford not to help?

Membership Growth and Potential

Although the Libertarian Party's paid up membership had, by March 1, climbed to a record high of nearly 9,000, the figure can be seen as just the hardcore base of a very impressive political structure.

Actually, there are nearly 50 times that many Libertarian Party voters, given the record of the last national election where 409,608 people voted for the party's presi-

dential candidate, Ron Paul, while 445,708 voted for libertarians in congressional races.

A good goal for the Libertarian Party: Get those nearly half-million voters back on the libertarian voting rolls. And if only one out of 10 also decided to join the party, our membership would increase more than five times!

IS ABORTION AGGRESSION?

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The Other Side of the Coin—Responsibility

By Dave Walter
LP National Chair

The other side of the libertarian coin—individual responsibility—is as much in need of exposition as is individual liberty. We now live in a land of entitlements: Things are "owed" to people as a "right." Everyone is entitled to a better life if they make any kind of effort at all, and even if they make no effort. Failure—especially the kind caused by making poor choices—is to be mitigated, if not rewarded, by all those who made better choices. Witness the bailout of Savings and Loans, or the permanence of an underclass.

So many of today's problems are caused by, or exacerbated by, government's participation as an enabler of poor choices and failure. Neither the Republicans nor the Democrats have the principle or guts to reverse this pattern. Only the Libertarians dare say that the "emperor has no clothes."

Where shall we say it? From the soapbox that political action provides us. That's why the Libertarian Party, and not another libertarian think-tank or debating society, was founded.

The Libertarian Party needs articulate and hard-working candidates in 1990. Our recent growth spurt has drawn thousands of people into the party seeking a chance to do something about the decline of liberty and self-responsibility in America. Campaigns and candidacies are an integral part of our message being heard, of the Libertarian Party becoming a major factor in America's political life, and of retaining the support and goodwill of those thousands who have joined and built the LP.

LP Membership Challenge Contest Ends This Month

By Karen Allard
LP Membership Chair

"Take the Challenge" is nearing completion and we're looking for winners. The national Libertarian Party membership contest began February 1 and ends April 30. Contest rules were sent to state chairs and membership chairs in January.

The goal of the membership contest is to increase the LP contributing members by at least 1,000 members by April 30. There will be a first and second place winner in each of the following categories: 1) absolute growth in national LP dues paying members; 2) percentage of growth in the national LP dues paying members; and 3) growth in national LP dues paying members per million of population in the state. Winners will be announced in May and prizes will be awarded at the Council of State Chairs' meeting in August subject to approval by the Council.

I hope all state organizations are participating in the contest to help the LP grow. There is still time. As of January 31, the national LP had 8,442 dues paying members; an all-time high! I encourage the state Libertarian Parties to "Take the Challenge" and be winners.

Who would make a good candidate? Look into the mirror. Whether this would be your first race, or your fifth, 1990 is a perfect time to run. 1990 can re-establish the LP as a political party on the move, but

From the Chair

only if the quantity of quality candidates is there. If you have been thinking about a race, don't put it off until 1992 or later. America's decline continues while the rest of the

world pulls back from the precipice we have not yet reached. Libertarian candidates, in their hundreds and thousands, can help reverse the decline.

You won't be alone out there if you run. The state LPs are bigger and stronger than ever. The national party's campaign committee, headed by Steve Dasbach (4523 Morning Wind Place, Ft. Wayne, IN 46804, 219-432-7430) now has the tools to help you with all aspects of your campaign. I

urge you to call him, and your state chair, to discuss a run for whatever office you feel comfortable with.

Too much is at stake to surrender America to those who would plan your every action, while ensuring that incompetence and failure is nonetheless rewarded. If you don't want to live in the kind of society that attitude inevitably brings, then let's use our Libertarian Party soapbox to help turn the tide in 1990.

A Feast of Freedom

"Liberty is a Glorious Feast." —Robert Burns

Every issue of *Liberty* offers a feast of individualist thinking designed to scintillate the most refined palate.

Hors d'oeuvres

To whet your appetite, *Reflections* serves up the provocative opinions of *Liberty's* editors. A few selections from the menu for March:

Bill Moulton takes a look into Yasser Arafat's chummy relationship with Ceausescu;

James Robbins on the snap judgments made by cold-struck New England politicians;

Leland Yeager advises the Sultan of Brunei about what to do about South Africa;

Timothy Virkkala offers a solution to the Soviet's economic dilemma, taking advantage of the one skill the Russians have developed.

Entrées

The main course consists of a variety of controversial and thoughtful essays. A few entrées from our current offering:

John Hospers explores two very different views of how humans should treat animals, and shows how one refutes the other (hint: the "animal rights" position does not survive the scrutiny);

Stephen Cox argues that knee-jerk isolationism leads to disastrous policies and is silly for libertarians to advocate;

Liberty's editors analyze the Panama invasion and its ominous implications;

Richard Kostelanetz visits Phil Donahue's favorite Commie, autographs a book, and exposes the illustrious Soviet P.R. flack as the author of a very clever fiction—himself;

R.K. Lamb explains why Hong Kong is not a utopia, and why its future looks bleak;

George H. Smith argues that libertarians who accept state jobs don't simply harm their own souls: they harm other libertarians as well.

Potages

To accompany its main features, *Liberty* offers a variety of penetrating reviews. A few examples from our excit-

Liberty

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Panama:
The Ugly
Gringo Strikes
Back

Human Rights, Animal Rights
and the Environment

by John Hospers

The Mencken Diary:
Self-Portrait of an Anti-Semite?

by R. W. Bradford

What's Wrong with Isolationism

by Stephen Cox

Hong Kong:
Capitalism Without Democracy
— or Hope

by R. K. Lamb

Libertarian Scholars on Welfare

by George H. Smith

"Above all things: Liberty" —John Seldon

ing current issue:

R.W. Bradford on H. L. Mencken's alleged anti-Semitism;

James Robbins on Robert A. Heinlein's complaints from the crypt about the bother of being a celebrity;

Rex F. May on speaking with the tongues of men and computers.

Desserts

To top off your feast and satisfy your intellectual sweet-tooth, *Liberty* offers:

Cartoons by Baloo and Bob Ortin;

The bizzareries of *Terra Incognita*, snip-

pets from the real world of statism and the booboisie.

Coming in Liberty:

✓ **Marketing Libertarianism: Doing Politics as if People Mattered** — Management consultant Ronald Merrill gives advice to Libertarian Party on how *not* to blow it next time;

✓ **A Population Crisis?** — Jane S. Shaw sifts through the hysteria about population growth, and explains why things are not nearly as bad as the crisis-mongers would have us believe, and how the *real* problems entailed by population growth can be averted;

✓ **The Official Truth** — Karl Hess argues that education in America is designed to teach people *not* to think, and discusses some recent attempts at *real* education;

✓ **The End of the Conservative Era** — Bill Moulton dissects recent developments on the

right, including the movement to submerge libertarianism within conservatism;

✓ **Novelist, Naturalist, Anarchist** — Bill Kauffman surveys the life and work of Edward Abbey, maverick novelist of the American West, inspiration to a new generation of ecological saboteurs.

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Right-to-Work Laws Are Not Libertarian

By Bruce Baechler

Recently the "right-to-work" advocates have been vocal in the LP. "Right-to-work" activists have spoken at at least two state conventions and have been mentioned positively in the libertarian press on several occasions. If I didn't know better, I would think "right-to-work" was a libertarian cause.

It's not.

Right-to-work is an attempt by anti-union conservatives to use government power to weaken the unions. It is essentially an anti-discrimination law and is, like all such laws, an interference in the right to contract and to freely associate. As such, right-to-work laws are condemned by the platform of the national LP, which calls for their repeal.

Just what are right-to-work laws? And why are so many libertarians being snowed by this conservative cause?

So-called "right-to-work" laws are state laws which forbid management and unions from contracting for an arrangement known as a union shop (or its milder version, the agency shop).

A union shop is a workplace where, by contract, everyone in the bargaining unit must join the union within a specified period of time (usually 30 days) after being hired.

In an agency shop one doesn't have to

actually join the union, but is required to pay a fee (usually the same as the dues, but without such things as political contributions) for the union's services in bargaining and other matters.

Both the union shop and the agency shop are milder than the closed shop which allows only those who are already union members to be hired.

Closed shops are, with minor exceptions in maritime and construction, illegal under federal law, although they would be legal in a libertarian society.

Federal labor law mandates union recognition in certain circumstances and requires good faith bargaining over wages, hours, and conditions of work. (Libertarians oppose this, of course.) It does not require bargaining over "union security" provisions such as the union shop. An employer may refuse to negotiate over these provisions without violating the law. In most states, though, they are "on the table" as items to bargain over, to be traded by one or the other party in the give and take of the negotiating. In "right-to-work" states the government has taken away that bargaining chip.

"Right-to-work" has become somewhat of a sacred cow among conservatives, and I imagine some libertarians who do not understand the issue have been taken in by this. But consider: A person may have a "right to work," but there is no "right to work for someone who doesn't want to employ you." This is what the so-called "right-to-work" laws mandate.

The Libertarian Party is not conservative and is not anti-union. We are pro-freedom, and that includes the freedom of employers to figure out what kind of deal they want to make with the unions.

This is one of the few issues on which we support organized labor's position. Let's not let knee-jerk anti-unionism spurred on by clever conservatives get in the way of sound libertarianism.

I would be interested in hearing from anyone interested in the subject of libertarians and labor relations. Write me c/o LP of Texas, P.O. Box 49854, Austin TX 78765.

Baechler is Chair of the Libertarian Party of Texas and a former labor organizer.

College Students' Opinions Checked In New Mexico

As part of a plan to form a student libertarian group at San Juan College, Farmington, NM, members of the Libertarian Party enrolled there conducted a survey of student opinion at the Student Union Building. Thirty-six students answered ten questions dealing with personal and economic freedom.

The results: 14 had views clearly identifiable as libertarian, 12 were moderates (or centrists on the Nolan chart), 3 were conservatives, 3 were liberals, 4 were authoritarian.

Testimonial from David R. Hunt of Ypsilanti, MI:

"Thank you for so quickly shipping my next 25 'Liberty Primers'.

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A Tragedy

Geb Sommers, executive director of the South Carolina Libertarian Party, has lost both of his beloved sons, 14-year-old Mark and 17-year-old Derek, in a boating accident during a camping trip. Both of the boys were experienced campers and canoeists but were caught up in unusually violent 50-knot weather on Lake Murray in South Carolina.

Every libertarian should join in loving sympathy for Geb's loss.

A Ruble for Your Thoughts

By Brooke King

The Soviets are offering a prize of 25,000 U.S. dollars, or the equivalent in another hard currency, for a plan to establish the ruble as a convertible currency. I read this on page 2B of the February 15, 1990, issue of USA Today.

An address for entry is:

Soviet Embassy
1125 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

This has the potential of providing an opportunity to guide them toward the free market and to enrich the winner, perhaps an organization or individual active in promoting freedom.

The Soviets have placed no restrictions on the contest. For example, there is no stated rule that the ruble must remain a protected monopoly in the Soviet currency market or that Soviet government assets cannot be used as collateral.

The Soviets did say (to quote from USA Today's article by Kevin Maney) that "a plan might include how to keep food prices from soaring and how to offer the ruble on currency markets worldwide," but no specific rules were given. You may wish to write and ask for rules or guide lines.

Good brainstorming and good luck if you choose to compete.

Tucson LP Urges Space Privatization

By Peter Schmerl

Fed up with the federal government's monopoly on space transportation? A group of resourceful libertarians are doing something about it. Members of the Tucson Space Society (formerly the L-5 Society) have written a space privatization bill and successfully had it introduced in Congress.

Sponsored by Ron Packard (R-CA), H.R. 2674 is intended to encourage the development of a competitive United States space transportation industry by requiring the federal government to contract for commercially provided space transportation services.

According to Mark Voelker, President of the Tucson Space Society, the bill is intended to lower the costs of putting payloads into orbit by creating competition in the launch industry while expanding the market for launch services. The bill also reduces excessive government interference in rocket design and engineering. In the long term, they expect costs to come down dramatically.

"Rockets built to government standards, and derived from 1950's military technology, are simply not designed to minimize costs," said Voelker. "They are high ticket, gold plated items which were designed decades ago and paid for with the taxpayers' blank check. Lack of competition meant there was no incentive to cut costs—especially through the many small improvements typical of commercial innovation, which eventually add up to large-scale savings."

The bill requires the federal government to purchase space transportation services from private companies via competitive bidding.

In addition to Mr. Packard, the Tucson Space Society has successfully found more than 40 congressmen to co-sponsor their bill. However, they need your help. Ask your congressman to co-sponsor and support H.R. 2674. You can reach your congressman by writing to him at the U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515, or by looking in the government pages of your local phone book.

For a copy of the bill or for more information, write to the Tucson Space Society, 5100 N. Moonstone, Tucson, AZ 85715, or call 602-327-9205.

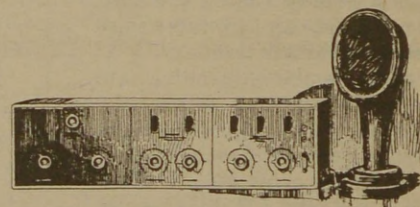
It's Time for the LP to Ham It Up

By Robert D. Moore

Here in Arizona, the medium of radio is being used to broadcast the views of the Libertarian Party. The Pima County Libertarian Party (Tucson area) has already been airing paid radio spots for some time. The Maricopa County Libertarian Party has used radio advertising in the past during elections, and is also preparing to create a paid spot on local news radio. It is hoped that an undiluted libertarian commercial with some information on how to learn more about the Libertarian Party, and libertarianism in general, will prove a wise investment in attracting more people.

The medium of radio is not limited solely to standard AM and FM frequencies seen on your ordinary car radio or stereo at home. Commercial radio has also made its appearance on short wave frequencies within the past few years.

Short wave was (and still is) used by governments to broadcast to other nations in other languages. The Voice of America, the BBC, and Radio Moscow are representative of this use of broadcasting. These



stations saturate the planet with their respective government lines. Also present in the short wave band are amateur operators (hams), military units, spy broadcasts, and pirate operators.

I wonder what the results might be if the Libertarian Party advertised on a short wave station to the world. Stations such as WRNO Worldwide in New Orleans and KUSW in Salt Lake City reach across borders to Asia, South America, North America, and Europe. Short wave is a primary source of news to many peoples. In North America, short wave listeners are generally better educated, and already have an open mind. They listen to many viewpoints.

Moore is treasurer of the Maricopa County Libertarian Party.

Computer Bulletin Boards Help Spread the Word

By Joe Dehn

Libertarians are now using electronic bulletin boards (BBSs) and electronic mailing lists every day to distribute news about libertarian activities across the country. They are also using them to propose and comment on ideas, both in political theory and practical politics.

The largest facility of this type is called Libernet. It brings together people on 20 Fidonet BBSs around the country, plus about 100 other people who use electronic mail networks that are part of the Internet (including UUCP and BITNET).

The Fidonet portion of this facility is called the LIBERTY "echo" ("echo" being a general term used in Fidonet for any facility of this type). Started just last winter, it now reaches people in 10 states, and more BBSs are being added all the time.

Unlike the systems involved in other

kinds of networks, Fidonet BBSs are generally owned and operated by individuals or small organizations—they have built a nationwide network not on a socialist or corporate model, but on an essentially libertarian model of voluntary cooperation. The operator of each BBS decides what "echos" to participate in—those who have chosen to join in the LIBERTY echo are a diverse group: some are LP activists, while some would not even call themselves libertarians but simply want to make the libertarian viewpoint available to their users. This is not a facility run by or solely for the benefit of the LP—it is open to anyone interested in the libertarian movement.

In addition to the LIBERTY echo, some of the same Fidonet BBSs participate in one specifically for discussion of LP business on the national level, called "LPUS." In some states where there is more than

one participating BBS, there is also an echo for news and discussion relating to the state LP. And, for people with more specific interests, other echos can easily be set up at any time. For example, there is now one devoted to Objectivism.

Now, thanks to personal computer technology and "gateways" between different networks, information can be delivered quickly (usually overnight) to libertarians all across the country, at very low cost. Think of this as a "libertarian newswire" or "electronic letters to the editor," or as something completely new—whatever way you use it, you can improve your contacts with other libertarians and enhance your ability to achieve success in your own libertarian projects, whatever form they take.

What You Can Do

Editors: Publish lists of these BBSs (nationwide, or just the ones for your area, depending on readership) so that more libertarians will know that they are available. Read these messages on a regular basis, and bring news and activist ideas from other parts of the country to your readers.

Activists: Post messages about your activities, so that libertarians in other places will know what you are doing. Read about what others are doing and be on the lookout for opportunities for cooperation and exchange of techniques, literature, and other activist tools.

Everybody: If you know someone who runs a BBS, or if you would be interested in running one yourself, contact me or any of the other LIBERTY BBS operators to find out how to get connected up to our nationwide network.

Computer BBSs not only make possible the sending and receiving of individual messages, but also the storage and display of larger files, such as computer programs and articles. Many BBS operators would like to make articles on libertarian subjects, or articles that approach a subject from a libertarian perspective, available to the users of their system.

This is another outreach tool—a way to extend the readership of libertarian material to a new audience. The material for the most part already exists and is being published in printed form. With closer cooperation between BBS operators and existing libertarian publications, we can speed up the process of this new kind of "reprinting" and make a much larger quantity of material available.

Many state LP newsletters and special-interest libertarian publications contain articles that would be of interest outside their normal readership. Many are already being prepared using "desktop publishing," and articles could be transferred to the BBSs on diskette or by modem. Text can also be converted to computer-readable form using optical scanning devices, although this is a bit less convenient. Regardless of the method, once the material is on one BBS it is a relatively simple matter to distribute it to others.

There are many other ways that our libertarian computer connections can be used to improve communication among individual libertarians, LP organizations, and other libertarian-oriented groups. For example, names and addresses of new prospects and of people who move from one state to another could be transmitted from one local LP affiliate to another, quickly and automatically. The LP national office could participate as well.

There are undoubtedly possibilities that nobody has even discussed yet. I hope to be "talking" to more of you soon through our growing BBS network.

NES Admits Goof

Robert W. Flaherty, Executive Director of the News Election Service, wrote a letter to Congressman Edward J. Markey of Massachusetts, in response to Congressman Markey's letter of inquiry as to why NES didn't report the vote for a New Alliance Party candidate for New York city council who had polled 42 percent. Flaherty stated, "With the benefit of hindsight, I believe this failure to collect the returns of Mr. Espada was a mistake...NES routinely reports the vote count for the Democratic, Republican, Liberal, Conservative, and Right to Life candidates. Neither NES, nor apparently any of the local news organizations it serves, was aware of the depth of support for Mr. Espada, who ran on the New Alliance Party line; if we had been, we most certainly would have reported his vote count. While our failure to perceive the candidate's ultimate strength in this one councilmanic race was obviously regrettable, to the best of my knowledge it is the only incident of its kind since NES began operations in 1964."

Any arguments?

—Reprinted in part from "Ballot Access News", February 12, 1990.

Rieger Sets Example

George Rieger, profiled recently in the *Wall Street Journal*, describes himself as a libertarian. The movement could use a lot more like him.

Professionally, Rieger manages half a billion dollars in investment funds through his Rieger, Robertson & Harrington company in New York's Rockefeller Center.

Off hours, Rieger is treasurer of the innovative and widely acclaimed Albert G. Oliver Program, which selects the most promising black and Hispanic students in New York City and helps them through financing attendance at one of 18 top-rated boarding and day schools in the Northeast. There are currently 60 Oliver Program students. Besides financial aid, the program helps the students get the sort of summer jobs that often are available only to kids with good family connections.

Each student, also, is expected to volunteer for community service even while maintaining acceptable grades in the elite prep schools they attend.

Capitalism, Rieger says, is waning in America. He fears, according to the *Wall Street Journal* interview with him, that the "nation grows more polarized be-

tween a professional-entrepreneurial class and a mass of sullen workers and the unemployed."

Rieger also teaches a Junior Achievement class at Public School 45 in Harlem.

As for the Oliver Program, Rieger says, "We are very concerned that our students not be identified as people who have been selected [just because they

need] assistance. We feel that they can compete with anybody...I believe that the philosophy that is the basis for the Oliver Program is antithetical to affirmative action...One of the things I say to my students is that you can compete with any Caucasian, but you have to compete on their ground, because right now they occupy the ground you're trying to take...Your competition exists, and it's in Singapore, South Korea, and Taiwan. They're learning English. One of the things I insist on in my classes is that the children speak English and speak it clearly."

For anyone who feels that libertarians are not sufficiently engaged with local social problems, libertarian financier George Rieger is a welcome example to the contrary.

Libertarian Profile

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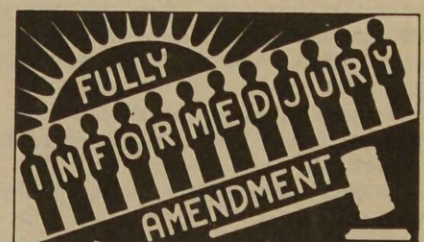
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Bennett's Policy a Bust

The Libertarian Party, which has been in the forefront of the movement to relegalize voluntary drug use for many years, has reacted to drug czar William Bennett's current "War on Drugs" appeal.

In a biting response, LP National Chair David Walter branded the Bennett program as more of the same blind reactionary approach to drug abuse that causes more problems than it can ever solve.

"The czar is throwing gasoline on a fire and pretending that he can extinguish it. The only result of an intensification in Bennett's war will be more urban murder, more crime, more clogged courts, and more American intervention in the affairs of foreign nations... it's time to end these problems by the relegalization of drugs," urged Walter.

Walter and Nancy Lord, LP candidate for mayor of Washington, DC, released statements critical of the Bennett anti-drug strategy at a news conference called by the Drug Policy Network.

"Bennett has stated that DC is a test case for his strategy. Last year there were 438 murders in this city," says Lord, "and the 1990 pace is well ahead of that rate. If this is a test, then his strategy has already failed."

Walter added, "Czar Bennett has referred to the proponents of relegalization as 'cynics and defeatists.' He [Bennett] is leading this nation to certain defeat, calling for more counterproductive federal spending and now 'concentration campuses' in a hopeless attempt to win a hopeless war."

DC-LP Nominates Mayoral Candidate

The District of Columbia Libertarian Party has been reconstituted after the election of party officers and the nomination of candidates for public office. Steve Fielder, Treasurer-LNC, presided as chairman pro-tem of the reconstitution convention. Dean Ahmad, At-Large-Rep-LNC, served as recording secretary pro-tem. Others assisting with the DC-LP Convention were Robert Murphy, Bill Redpath, Clifford Thies, Nick Dunbar, Agnes Regier, Christine Fielder, Tomas Estrada-Palma, and Pennsylvania state chair John Famularo. Approximately 60 DC-LP supporters attended.

Ron Paul, who was in DC announcing the formation of the Coalition to End Drug Violence in a news conference, stopped by to lend his support to the DC-LP. Paul addressed the body, calling for party unity and stressing the importance of the libertarian message concerning the "War on Drugs" being spread worldwide. Paul's "At Issue" TV show began March 7th on the Discovery Channel, bringing the libertarian view to current issues.

Nancy Lord received the DC-LP's nomination for mayor of DC. Dr. Lord, already a licensed physician, is currently in her final year of study at Georgetown Law Center. A former clinical director for a major pharmaceutical company, she has owned and operated a medical-legal consulting business for several years. Dr. Lord is a native of the Washington metropolitan area and has been politically active for years, working with such organizations as the Drug Policy Foundation, the National Rifle Association, the National Abortion Rights Action League, the National Taxpayers Union, the National Tax Limitation Committee, and the National Drug Policy Network.



Dr. Nancy Lord is the Libertarian Party candidate for mayor of Washington, DC.

State House Seat Is Key Goal For Campaign '90

By Mary Gingell

Affiliate Campaigns Committee Chair Steve Dasbach reports that the ACC (also known as Campaign '90) has put together plans for helping LP candidates throughout the country.

Campaign '90 has set the following goals for this year's election season: 1) Elect one libertarian to a state legislature in a contested, partisan race. 2) Generate over 20,000 inquiries for additional information about the LP (which should result in 2,000-4,000 new members).

Steve's committee is trying to identify 12 candidates in 12 different states who are willing and able to run campaigns to win a state house seat. He has several candidates already, but he urges all state chairs to let him know immediately if your state has such a candidate.

Steve suggests the following guidelines for deciding if you have a potentially winnable state house race:

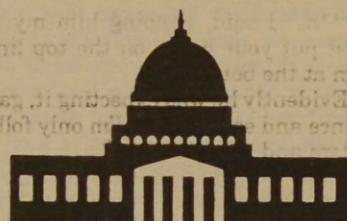
1. Your campaign team should be planning to outspend the Democratic and Republican candidates by a factor of two or three, and to spend at least \$5 per vote. A district in which 6,000 votes or fewer are normally needed to win is a likely target. This would mean raising and spending up to \$30,000. Your campaign should plan to raise one third of this money by August 1 locally and within the state. If your race is one of the two or three winnable races ultimately targeted by the ACC, you can hope to receive one third of your funding through their program, leaving the remaining third to be raised locally August through November.

2. Your candidate must have some standing in the community (i.e., long-time resident, employed there, active in civic and volunteer groups, etc.). A college graduate who has just moved to a new town in a new state probably won't be a winnable candidate.

3. Your candidate must be willing to make a serious time commitment to this project.

4. Your district must have strong volunteer potential.

Steve warns that you not prejudice that an incumbent could never be beaten. What might be considered a losing race for a Democrat or Republican with an en-



trenched incumbent opponent may in fact be a good shot for the Libertarian candidate.

If your campaign is chosen as one of the 12 winnable races, you will be eligible for training programs, financial assistance, help with campaign materials and advertising, and fundraising assistance from Campaign '90.

Of course, most of our campaigns around the country will be designed to collect names of prospective libertarians. The ACC has an ongoing teleconferencing program designed to train candidates and campaign managers about how to use their campaigns most effectively to collect names of interested people.

The first teleconference training program for outreach campaigns will begin in March or April, depending on how soon Steve hears from at least eight candidates interested in participating.

Please send Steve Dasbach (4523 Morning Wind Place, Fort Wayne, IN 46804) a list of all LP candidates in your state (with addresses and phone numbers) as soon as possible. He will be mailing much more detailed information about the services of Campaign '90 directly to all candidates on his list.

Steve offers one final comment: "Television advertising is not necessarily outside your reach, even in an outreach campaign. In Indianapolis, \$70 buys a 30 second ad locally inserted on the CNN channel. Production costs will be about \$1,000 for your own ad. But for an outreach campaign, you can purchase national LP's generic ads, your candidate can record the tag line (so your ad will qualify for political rates), and you're in business. In 1988 in Georgia the generic LP ads (including those run at 2 AM) generated an average of 26 responses per ad."

Mary Gingell is Vice-Chair of the National Libertarian Party and Chair of the Affiliate Parties Committee.

We Want You, We Need You...

The Libertarian Party NEWS needs and wants your contributions and suggestions in regard to:

- Stories of successful Libertarian Party activities, large or small.
- Actions, events, or campaigns that brought in new members.
- Oppressive laws blocked or repealed by Libertarian Party activism.
- Individual libertarians, party members or not, whose work for liberty should be recognized.
- Examples of productive cooperation between Libertarian Party and non-party groups or individuals.
- Examples of productive public relations efforts.
- Anything that you think other libertarians should know about.
- Good quality, high contrast, uncluttered and fully identified photographs of party events or personalities.

Now that we are publishing the NEWS monthly, the copy deadline for each issue will be the first day of the month preceding the date of issue (i.e., May 1 is the deadline for the June issue, which will be printed and mailed by the middle of May but may take up to four weeks to reach readers thanks to our third-class mailing permit and the efficiency of the U.S. Postal Service.)

The most useful lengths for stories in the Libertarian Party NEWS are between 150 and 700 words. The editors reserve the right to edit submitted material for style and length while making every effort to not change meaning. If authors do not accept the possibility of their material being edited in any way, they should make it clear that this is a stipulation regarding the use of their material. Only material accompanied by self-addressed, stamped envelopes will be returned.

Coming: Special Candidates' Issue

A good deal, if not all, of our August issue is going to be devoted to the serious races for public office which Libertarian Party members already have set in motion. If you are planning to be a candidate, let us know by July 1. If you have already worked out a campaign plan let us know about that also.

It Just Doesn't Make Good Census to Me

By Bud Ruehle

I was one of the lucky ones who was sent the short form census questionnaire in 1980. If I remember correctly, it was only about four pages. The official declaration on the front of the form stated that I was required by law to answer the questions.

I wondered if an individual among the census takers would be willing to put his personal guarantee to the legitimacy of that law. So I drew up a very simple document containing language something of this order:

"I, (name of census taker), by signing below, do personally guarantee to Mr. Ruehle that the information I am requiring him to disclose for the 1980 census is not an infringement of his right of privacy as expressed in the U.S. Constitution; and furthermore, if it is ever determined that the demanding of this information has violated this or any other of his rights, I will accept full liability and the consequences thereof."

Having no legal background, I really don't have any idea of the value of such a document. But it worked.

I answered only the questions which I felt were legitimate, such as our names, address, ages, and maybe a couple of other items that would verify our existence.

A couple of weeks later, someone called me on the phone and asked for the omitted information. I told him I don't divulge things like that over the phone. A day or two later, a woman arrived at my home.

She asked why I hadn't given the required information and I explained that I

thought it was my right not to, meaning that I thought it violated my right to privacy. She assured me that it was all perfectly legal, and that "everyone is required to do it."

I handed her my document and said: "Then you won't mind attesting to that, will you?"

She read it a couple of times and said: "What is this for?"

"It says that you will take full personal responsibility if it is ever determined that this census has violated any of my Constitutional rights," I explained.

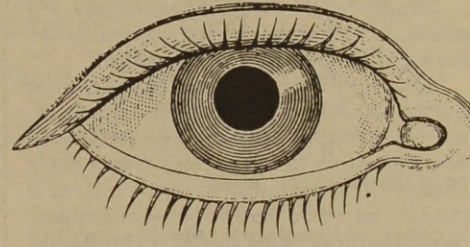
"I'm not going to sign this," she said. "Nobody said I would have to sign anything. Why are you concerned about giving this information, anyway?" she asked.

"Why are you concerned about signing my paper?" I responded.

Thoroughly unprepared for the situation, she left.

The next day, a man identifying himself as a "Supervisor of the Census" arrived at the door. I invited him in, and he couldn't have been more cordial. He obviously had some training because he went into a long spiel about how important it was for the government to know where everybody and everything is. He said the government has to know what is above average and what is below, so "it can plan for us with more reliability. Without a routine inventory, moving the nation's resources around is chancy." (I kid you not).

I told him that I didn't consider any one in my family, or the property I have worked hard to accumulate, to be national resources or assets to be inventoried.



He apologized for inferring that my family was a national resource, and said that he didn't mean to suggest we were.

"Pardon me," I quipped, "but why would the government want to know where things were if it had no power to control them? If all this is just an academic exercise, isn't it a waste of money to collect and organize all this data?"

"Well anyway," he said, "you're going to have to give me the information that the form requires."

"OK," I said, slipping him my paper, "just put your name on the top line and sign at the bottom."

Evidently he was expecting it, gave it a glance and said: "Look, I'm only following orders and doing my job."

"And I'm only following my conscience and doing my duty," I replied. "All I want is for somebody to be forthright enough to put their signature where their opinion is. I don't care if it's you, the chief census

taker, a judge, a Congressman, the President — anybody at all who will take the responsibility."

Then he became stern: "You have to give me this information!"

"I will," I said, "just as soon as you sign this paper."

"You're not getting the picture," he said.

"You're not getting the point," I said.

"The only reason you hesitate to sign my affirmation is because you're not absolutely certain that what you're doing is within Constitutional constraints. If you were 100 percent sure that the powers-that-be in Washington had the full legal authority to intrude into every American home and that your personal guarantee of liability would be fully supported by them, you wouldn't hesitate to sign this document. So as long as you're reluctant to sign, I'm reluctant to comply. And frankly, if you never inquired about this when you took the job, don't you sit up nights worrying?"

I could tell that last statement made his day.

"Are you going to sue, or challenge the census?" he asked.

"I don't know," I said, "but maybe someday somebody will, and then I'll be entitled to seek damages from whoever it was that signed this paper."

He said he was going to have to get further advice, folded his file, and left. We shook hands and I never heard from anyone after that.

Bud Ruehle is active in the Pennsylvania LP.

Ohio LP Stands Up for Freedom of the Press

By Mark Ginter

A series of police raids on Franklin County (Columbus), Ohio adult bookstores has sparked a sharp response by the Libertarian Party of Ohio, and pushed the group into the center of debate over pornography.

The raids this year on 10 area bookstores were the latest in a long line of attempts by county officials to stamp out ever-loosely defined "obscene material." This time government harassment may have backfired.

The center of the controversy is Earl Smith, longtime sheriff of Franklin County. The sheriff's over-zealous pursuit of this civil case (being tried under public nuisance statutes) earned him verbal rebuke from a judge hearing the case and an order to return 58 cartons of material improperly seized.

On January 22 libertarians in the area launched "Operation Who Decides," with a first printing of 10,000 brochures entitled "The Public vs. Earl Smith" and subtitled "Who decides what you can see?" Distribution went first to the affected businesses, via an agreement with the proprietors.

On February 4, James A. Parker, Central Region Representative for the LPO, announced (on the local NBC-TV affiliate) the start of phase two of the campaign.

On Monday, February 5, a large ad sponsored by the LPO appeared in *The Columbus Dispatch* and in "Business First," the local business tabloid. Radio spots also began playing that day on

WTVN-AM, the area's largest radio station. The content of the print ad, virtually identical to the brochure, included the LPO's toll-free phone number and a tear-out "for more information" coupon. The radio spot was in the form of a dialogue between a man and a woman.

Response to phase two of the ad campaign was swift. A local talk show host, Jim Bleikamp, invited Parker and Matt Gaylor, Central Ohio Chair, to debate Sheriff Smith that night on the air. The libertarians accepted but the sheriff declined. But Smith was goaded and half-way through the show he called in.

A sharp on-air exchange followed. Smith tried to portray the libertarians as radicals, without support in the general public. But Parker and Gaylor said that the existence of so many adult bookstores in the Greater Columbus area was proof that, using the Supreme Court's "community standards" test, the bookstores should be free to do business unharassed by the government; and that there was widespread support for the libertarian opinion. Parker and Gaylor also pointed out that demopublican ballot access laws were a huge hindrance to getting opposing views across in the political media; thus, the necessity for an ad campaign.

Meanwhile, 18 calls regarding the ad campaign were received on the toll-free number the first day. Some were critical, but others offered praise and requested more information. Approximately 70 mail responses were received in the first five days following release of the ads. Of those, only three were critical.

For his part, Sheriff Smith tried to force financial disclosure by the LPO of funding for "Operation Who Decides" through the Ohio Secretary of State and the Franklin County Board of Elections. (The Libertarian Party does not have to report financing on issues not related to either elections or candidacies).

A second printing of 10,000 brochures has since been received and distributed. Two independent video stores who do not deal in the alleged obscene material have joined adult bookstores throughout the area in distributing "The Public vs. Earl Smith."

A second print ad in the series has appeared in the business tabloid. The ad selected for use was the one on pornography developed by David Nolan's Advertising Development Committee. The Nolan ad is also being used to reach students at Ohio State University, via the student publication "Lantern" (circulation 78,000). In ad-

dition, a second radio spot was played.

James Parker, principal author of the brochure (the basis for the first print ad) and both radio spots, calls the response to date "quite positive."

He adds, "Very few people have expressed disagreement. And we've even had several express interest in getting involved with the party."

Matt Gaylor, the LPO's chairman in the region, is happy with the alliance between those subject to government harassment (the store owners) and those who defend on principle the rights of all persons to behave in any way that does not involve coercion.

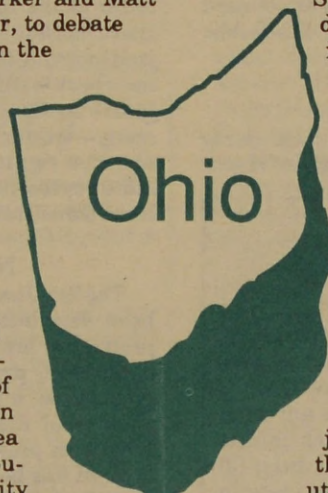
"Both groups are gaining as a result of this campaign," says Gaylor. "The adult bookstore owners benefit from wider public support. The party benefits from greater recognition of who we are and what we stand for."

The number of responses (now climbing toward 150) indicates a substantial increase in party activities in the coming months.

Parker concludes, "I would like to see this campaign used as a model for similar libertarian efforts to support other unpopular groups around the country."

Persons interested in learning more about the campaign should contact: James A. Parker, Libertarian Party - Central Region, Suite 281, 6326 E. Livingston Avenue, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068.

Mark Ginter is Chairman of the Libertarian Party of Ohio.



Candidates' Night Provides Surprises, Motivation

By Virginia Cropsey

Michigan Libertarians reaped a real bonus from a special Candidates' Night meeting.

The original purpose was to honor and hear from the three libertarians actually holding public office—Charles Congdon, Vice-Chair of the Midland Cable Commission; James Clifton, Trustee of the Addison Village Council; and Jim McAbee, Romeo Library Board.

Candidates' Night, held in Southfield, MI, was to highlight members in office as a way to attract more members, funding, and publicity: the Catch-22 that success gets you success. The goal of a political party is to attain public office and people want to be involved with successful endeavors. The Candidates' Night was to focus on our success stories and to learn from their experience. The officeholders would tell us how they got into office, what their duties were, what their experiences had been, their successes and failures, and

what their goals are. The event was also designed to kicked off Campaign '90 and start the collection of names of those who wanted to run for office.

Simply by emphasizing candidacy, we ended up with three more members on our lists of libertarians in public office!

Dr. Larry Porzolt called to say he had agreed to serve on the Stockbridge Community Schools Committee on AIDS and Sex Education in the schools. State chair Dick Whitelock applied for and received a position as the business community representative on an Ionia County commission to study alternative sentencing for non-violent prisoners. LP member Dar Tisdale informed us that he's been in an office for over three years—as Treasurer of the Lenox Township Economic Development Council.

The night of the event, we put LP of Michigan Treasurer Jeff Hampton on first, because he had just received lots of coverage as leader of Citizens for a Better Northville—a group credited with twice

defeating a recreational parks millage. The idea was to show ways of becoming involved that lead to the recognition necessary to attain office. We also wanted to see newsclips. Hampton's were impressive, thanks to his ability to make libertarian arguments in terms that relate directly to the issue, to marshal facts, and to speak in such a way that the reporter prints what he says and have it make wonderful sense, something any libertarian who's ever given an interview can appreciate.

He urged joining groups such as the Chamber of Commerce. Hampton said the local paper now regularly calls him for comments on all sorts of issues and he may have a regular column.

Dr. Porzolt indicated that he "was in the driver's seat" in receiving his appointment because by law the committee was required to have a doctor if they were going to plan discussions of "intimate reproductive functions." Porzolt said the school representative who asked him to serve on

the committee said, "Doctor, your position on central planning and committees is well-known..." Porzolt had turned down a planning committee assignment in the past, saying "central planning is the kiss of death." But now he felt it was important that the committee get the libertarian point of view.

McAbee advocated civic group participation as a means to gaining a committee assignment. Hampton also said that the media and civic leaders all know he's a Libertarian, but he has Republicans and Democrats in his small citizens' group.

Whitelock stressed emphasizing the ideas and their common sense rather than the label. When people get a chance to meet, and like, libertarians as people, they are more likely to listen to and accept the ideas. Much of this may not seem new, but listening to libertarians who practice what many have said we should do was an enlightening experience in Michigan.

Cropsey is vice-chair of the Libertarian Party of Michigan.

Arizona

More than 40 Libertarians attended the first annual county convention for the Pima County LP. The group gave out a "pork award" to Tucson Mayor Tom Volgy and Tucson City Manager Joel Valdez for taking "good will" vacations to the U.S.S.R. at the taxpayers' expense.

California

Jim Lewis, field coordinator for the LPC, has been busy on college campuses across the state, as well as attending gatherings of special interest groups such as gun owners and bikers. Lewis reports that on college campuses his "survey"—using the Self-Government diamond chart—has yielded the following results: Libertarian 1,545; Centrist 900; Liberal 164; Conservative 255; and Authoritarian 74. Lewis also notes that, "Since October I have placed 2,184 pieces of Libertarian literature in the hands of people that probably will read it."

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The Alameda County Libertarians recently held a "Wine and Sign" party—a chance to relax, socialize, and sign the Limited Terms Initiative.

Colorado

The Colorado LP's first officially sanctioned county affiliate was formed early this year. About 30 Colorado Springs area Libertarians met at the home of Marylin Vaughan and formed the El Paso County LP.

Around the States



Georgia

LP member Jimmy Harris, creator of the GLP's "Cracked Pot Awards," was described as one "of the state's most progressive political theorists" in an article concerning his opposition to rent control in *Creative Loafing*, Atlanta's 100,000 circulation alternative weekly. Harris was also described as "a colorful Georgia media-wise Libertarian Party official."

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Elizabeth C. Goldin, the state LP's leading vote-getter in 1988 with over 64,000 votes in a four-way race, has announced that she is again running for the Public Service Commission.

Illinois

Illinois Libertarian, the state party newsletter, has been publishing an "Honor

Roll" of those leaders who have spoken out for decriminalization of drugs. As of February, the list had grown to 30, with new listings including Carl Sagan, Russell Baker, Garry Trudeau, Hugh Downs, and Tom Snyder.

Kansas

A fundraising drive, entitled Sunflower '92, is well underway. The state party is hoping to raise over \$12,000 for a petition drive which will begin April 15, 1990. Leaders in the fundraising drive include Mark Kirk, Julie Sheppard, Karl Peterjohn, Dan Reagan, David Moffett, Bill D. Earnest, John Boyer, and Robert Murphy.

Michigan

Ron Burcham received 2.4 percent of the vote for state House of Representatives District 25 in a special election. This was nearly five times the Libertarian vote total in the previous election. In the 24 (of 71) precincts where Burcham distributed campaign literature, his vote-total was 4.6 percent. Burcham has already announced he will be running again in the regular election this fall.

New Hampshire

Libertarian Lines, the excellent newsletter of the LPNH, notes that the party there has launched its largest-ever organized lobbying blitz, with more than a dozen members testifying before the state legislature in Concord. The pro-liberty testimony—on gun laws, drug legalization, and abortion rights—won praise from several state representatives and a mention in at least three state newspapers.

New Mexico

The San Juan County Libertarians have been very busy—a direct mail outreach project, a pro-choice march, censorship opposition, protesting a publicly-funded golf course, a booth at a motorcycle run/show, and their major opposition to an irrigation project repayment contract. A lawsuit has been filed against the county commissioners who voted for this contract. The lawsuit claims that approval of the repayment contract violates that part of the state constitution that requires anything causing a public debt be decided by referendum. The irrigation project has been in the planning stages for decades, and if built would cost the county \$12.8 million. One county commissioner stated: "The

reason we don't [have a referendum vote] is like we've been saying—we just don't have time." After all—the project has only been in the planning stages for decades.

New York

In the Rochester area, Dave Hoesly, an engineer at Xerox-Webster, was elected Genesee Region LP Chair for 1990. Bob Walton, an engineer at Kodak Park, was elected chair for the Genesee Valley SIL.

Ohio

Jim Fuller of Miami (OH) University has written a series of five columns on libertarian themes for the college newspaper. He is also helping the effort to rescind zoning in Morgan Township.

South Carolina

State party members are active in a fight against a "local option sales tax" recently passed by the state legislature. A program is also underway to petition the legislature for a "recall bill," to allow voters to remove officeholders who are doing a bad job.

Tennessee

Ken Hooper, in the Tennessee LP's newsletter, The Volunteer, gave the 1989 Grand Prize for Most Eloquent Quotation to George Bush for his statement: "America's freedom is the example to which the world expires."

Utah

The Utah LP will hold its biennial precinct caucuses at 7 p.m. April 30 at various locations (call 1-800-283-UTAH for the one near you) throughout the state. State chair Doug Jones will address the meetings on KVED-TV at 7 p.m., or shortly thereafter. These caucuses elect delegates to county and state LP conventions. Radio station KTKK-AM will carry last minute announcements.

Washington

Washington State's LP executive committee decided to abolish all fees for membership in the LPWS. Lee Woofenden, state membership chair, said that free membership would eliminate renewal hassles, while instituting a pledge program and additional fundraising appeals will actually increase revenue. Due to this new policy, state party membership also increased from 195 to about 300.

Jury Nullification

continued from page 1

Informed Jury Amendment write to Dodge or Doig at P.O. Box 59, Helmville, MT 59843.

As the widely respected libertarian writer, John Dentinger, points out, however, jury nullification has its down side. He cites numerous cases where people accused of beating wives, attacking gay people or, in earlier times, lynching blacks, have been acquitted by juries who, in their own version of jury nullification, apparently approved of the violence. The acquittal of alleged rapists "because she was asking for it" is another example of what Dentinger feels is a

form of jury nullification.

"Yet there is," he writes, "a simple, sensible way for [libertarians] to take advantage of 'jury nullification,' and it is the same way we have to do anything right: *do it ourselves*. Approach this as follows: (1) volunteer for jury duty; (2) shut up about your libertarian ideas in the court and in the jury room; (3) vote to acquit in any victimless crime case (if others on the jury ask why, just say you don't believe the defendant is guilty, and then shut up—don't proselytize, including if the press wishes to interview you later); (4) urge other libertarians to do likewise."

Libertarianism Defined by Consensus

Libertarians should only define themselves on issues or principle of consensus belief. Otherwise the rights of as many as one third of Libertarians to communicate to the public a philosophical difference from the "party line" are reduced. The abortion issue is only one case of many in which this applies. There is no libertarian position on abortion if 30 percent or more libertarians are pro-life. For this reason, there is no justification for having an abortion plank on the platform either way.

If a consensus were required on the Platform Committee and the convention floor instead of requiring a "tyranny of the majority," Libertarians would more accurately be represented to the public at large. Minutiae from the Platform would be eliminated. It is possible that no consensus may be obtained on specific issues. If so, so be it. Maybe the Platform should only include principles of consensus. If that is tantamount to a Statement of Principles, perhaps the Platform as we know it should be eliminated.

I know it is very difficult, but can't we Libertarians try to refrain from ascending to the Libertarian altar and indulging in the flogging of each other with litmus-test penance and receiving communion by defining libertarianism ad-infinitem to purify our souls?

Kenneth Prazak
Editor, *Illinois Libertarian*

Left-Wing Hippy Syndrome

The February 1990 LP NEWS headline "Libertarians Raise Strongest—and Virtually the Only Opposition to Panama Invasion" represents one reason libertarians do not get elected. You advertise the left-wing hippy syndrome: the blame America first crowd. When 80 percent of the American and Panamanian people support the invasion, why represent yourselves as a negative voice? Basically, I agree with your position, but that is not the issue. The issue is getting elected to office by cultivating support from middle America. George Wallace played up foreign aid and law and order. Stand Up For America issues almost got him elected.

Gary Meyer
Veradale, WA

Media's Mistranslation

Have people noticed that the media keeps telling us that the Chinese and East Europeans are fighting for "democracy," yet the ones who can speak English keep saying "liberty"?

The low was hit in a recent photo of the Lithuanian demonstrations when a banner was translated incorrectly. I know enough

Letters to the Editors

LP NEWS

P.O. Box 173

Kearneysville, WV 25430



Cyrillic to know it said "liberty" and not anything else.

Walt Karwicki II
York, PA

Germann's Population Maxim

The root cause of environmental problems is not "too many people," and industry, while producing more, is not polluting more.

At the turn of the century you could just about walk across the Mississippi in the Twin Cities on the floating bogs of sewage sludge. Now you can take a swim. I recall the air quality in Chicago 42 years ago. It was immeasurably worse than it is now. Even though the population has doubled in the last 42 years and quadrupled in the last 90, the quality of the environment has improved immensely.

This brings me to Germann's population maxim: "The wealth of the people is directly proportional to the number of people living in freedom, and inversely proportional to the interference they get from their government." Part of that wealth can be converted into clean air and clean water. The problem is not "too many people." The problem is "too much government." Let us double and redouble the population. It can't hurt.

Frank J. Germann
West St. Paul, MN

Proposed Change to Statement

I am proposing the following change to the first sentence of the Statement of Principles. It should read:

"We, the members of the Libertarian Party, defend the liberty of the individual and oppose all government violations of individual rights."

The current version says we "challenge the cult of the omnipotent state." This wording is guaranteed to alienate newcomers.

Party membership does not require that members challenge a cult. It requires only that they support libertarian political values and views.

Eric C. Banfield
Northern Vice-Chair, Illinois LP

No Limit

I suggest [that the party call] for the total elimination of all speed limits...

A mediocre driver in a 15-year-old station wagon may only be able to drive down a straight section of highway at 55 or 60 mph under good road conditions, let alone poor conditions. Yet a high caliber driver in a sport sedan, sports car, or superbike may be able to travel down this same section of road at over 100 mph.

Both drivers can peacefully coexist, as long as a couple of rules of the road are observed. First, everyone must keep right except to pass. When you're done passing, you must move over. Secondly, you must use your turn signals to indicate all lane changes.

Because Europeans follow these rules religiously, typical fast traffic travels safely and legally at 80 to 90 mph on the highways of every country in western Europe.

Mike Stone
Danbury, CT

Changes?

The peace and liberty myth has already been dispensed with by Romanian and Azerbaijani violence. As differing power factions exhaust themselves in internecine squabbles and racial and ethnic tensions manifest themselves, the law of the group, survive at all costs to peace and liberty, will probably cause violence in other areas, too.

I support the LP executive committee resolution. I would support that philosophy with or without changes, cosmetic or real, in eastern Europe. Let us mind our own business and leave the rest of the world the liberty to do the same.

E. Carroll
Onalaska, WA

NOW Differences

I agree [with previous letter writers] that the leaders of NOW are anti-libertarian in their approach [but] I believe that the membership of NOW are more interested in obtaining and protecting individual rights of women...The activist individuals are of great importance to the Libertarian Party...

Indeed the LP does not appeal to these women who seek special favors and government handouts, but I don't believe these are major issues within the NOW organization...

The Libertarian Party needs to reach out to the advocates of women's rights, the NRA, the Chamber of Commerce, the Gay Rights movement, NORML...the John Birch Society, and other seemingly incompatible groups.

John A. Bennett, D.O.
Sequim, WA

Necessary Tolerance

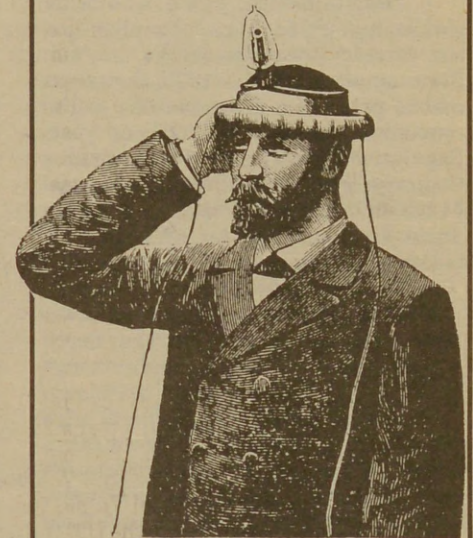
Abbey Lawrence's letter in the February 1990 LP NEWS takes libertarians to task who promote outreach to liberal-minded people...using such inflammatory remarks as "jack-booted feminists" and "America-hating peace droids."

Tolerance of other peoples' lifestyles is necessary for the spread of liberty. Of course, libertarians should never appear to favor

government actions many leftists would like that would ultimately reduce liberty. This does not mean, however, that we should not provide outreach to others, whether they are from the Left, the Right, or are apolitical. Libertarians must continue to provide an alternative to all versions of statism.

George Meyer
Vice-Chairman, San Francisco LP

Letter of the Month



You are a stupid son of a bitch. You are now under surveillance and two of your associates know it. They lie for us. You got that? Don't think you're too small for this. Talk to him again and you get microwaves. Microwaves to the head. Don't look for cameras—we don't use them. If you look for us you'll see us.

Unsigned
[postmark] North Bay, CA

Unlibertarian Broom?

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the California Libertarian Party, it was decided to endorse the two-term limitation initiative being promoted by Operation New Broom, a coalition of taxpayers and voter groups heavily populated by libertarians.

Unfortunately, some libertarians regard such a law as unlibertarian, on the basis that it restricts the freedom of the individual. If that is the case, then it must also be determined that age restrictions of officeholders, as well as the setting of the number of years of terms—limitations which are contained within the Constitution—are also unlibertarian.

Against this position, I must maintain that there is no natural right to rule, and that any officeholder is in essence an employee, who only has a right to serve so long and under such conditions as his employers—the people over whom he exercises authority—wish him or her to serve. Public office—if it is legitimate—is a contracted position, which can only be held under such conditions as the voters choose to allow.

That the results of unlimited tenure in office are unlibertarian cannot, I think, be argued. The pandering to special interests, especially of the ability to tax, result in the most awful impositions upon the people, and in the absence of the automatic termination of office, it must be expected that these abuses of power will continue indefinitely.

John Vernon
Chair, LP-California

continued on page 10

Letters to the Editors Policy

Because of limited space, we request that letters to the editors be kept to about 200 words.

If your letter is longer we will edit it down to that length, trying as best we can to keep its major point intact. If you want your letter to go as written, please keep it to less than a single double-spaced typed page. We have always tried to use as many letters as possible and will continue to do so, but we can do it only with the cooperation of letter writers keeping their letters short. Your attention to our space limitations will help in sharing the space equitably with other letter writers.

If you do not want your letter edited, please make that clear. It will not be edited, or used, if it does not fit our space limitations. Some longer letters might be considered for use as articles, but, as with any other editorial submissions, the decision to use

or not use the material will rest with the editors. We simply cannot, as much as some would desire, use everything that is submitted.

If you have a longer message, and want it to be printed exactly as sent, you might consider placing it in the paper as a paid ad. As with other ads, we reserve the right to refuse statements that are obviously aimed simply at damaging the party, attacking personalities, or spreading lies or half-truths or statements that are simply scatological or obscene. And, as with other ads, such editorial statements must be sent as camera-ready copy along with payment. An example would be \$120 for a quarter-page ad (approximately 500 words, if set as a solid block using our regular Century Schoolbook nine-on-ten-point body-copy type size or equivalent).

Regulation and the Reagan Era: Politics, Bureaucracy, and the Public Interest

Following is a summary of major points from a useful new book, *Regulation in the Reagan Era*, edited by Robert E. Meiners and Bruce Yandle, Holmes & Meier Publishers, Inc., \$19.95 paperback, 330 Irving Place, New York, NY 10003. The summary was prepared by the libertarian Independent Institute, 350 Sansome Street, San Francisco, CA 94104.

- Despite health, safety, and other claims, regulation is the triumph of special interests over the public interest. For example, as of May 1979, the excess cost of petroleum price controls to the consumer was \$2.5 billion per year. Regulation by the Interstate Commerce Commission alone resulted in an annual \$1 billion in monopoly wages to trucking union members and an additional \$2 billion to company certificate owners.

- Under deregulation, airline travelers save \$6 billion annually through lower fares and better service, and shareholders have improved their annual earnings by \$2.5 billion. Similarly, petroleum decontrol has reduced the nominal price of regular unleaded gasoline by one third. From 1982 to 1983 alone, deregulation resulted in increases in labor productivity of .2 percent in the private, non-farm

sector, whereas regulation formerly caused 12 to 21 percent of the decline in labor productivity between 1973-76 and 1958-65.

- James Watt specifically opposed a privatization of federal lands and resisted the original proposal to sell off 5 percent of non-sensitive lands. He instead sided with the same western Democratic governors who opposed President Carter's earlier efforts to cut federal water projects.

- The Reagan Administration's major deregulatory success, telecommunications, resulted from a successful "marriage of ideology with interest group pressures." But the local interest groups that made this success possible have now stalled any further efforts at greater competition in this industry.

- The entrenched bureaucracy, along with the Civil Service System, erects nearly insurmountable reactionary barriers against any genuine regulatory reform. Professional bureaucrats attempt to destroy any voices who prove effective in mobilizing people to reduce an agency's program, regardless of how beneficial such reduction might be for the general public.

Greens and Trade

By Dan Sullivan

Major barriers to libertarian cooperation with the Green political movement include the antagonism of some Greens toward private property and toward free trade. But the scene is not altogether bleak. There are Greens, for instance, who take free trade as seriously as do libertarians. Here, from a Canadian Green commentator, is encouraging evidence that the libertarian-Green dialogue should continue.

From a decentralist Green perspective, trade protectionism is an unacceptable non-solution.

It is inherently centralist, nationalistic, monopolistic, authoritarian, and bureaucratic. In essence, protection is central powers making people accept bad deals on domestic products by blocking better deals on foreign products. It keeps domestic monopolies fat and happy at the expense of both domestic consumers and foreign producers. Ironically, Canadian arguments about protection from U.S. competition are nearly identical to U.S. arguments about Japanese competition. Blaming foreigners is an easy way to avoid dealing with weaknesses in domestic systems.

Should Toronto be allowed to trade freely with Montreal? Should the city be allowed to trade freely with the suburbs? Should you be allowed to trade with your next door



neighbor for something you could have made yourself? Nationalistic protection thrives only because distrust of foreigners masks its uncooperative nature.

While the Green movement is focused on transcending national boundaries, protection makes it difficult to even cross those boundaries.

Free trade is a natural process that would work quite well in the absence of manipulative central authority. Free trade presents problems only because other perversions of the marketplace have not been remedied.

Why are taxpayers forced to subsidize airports, seaports, and overbuilt highway systems? Why do small, efficient producers with few resources pay more taxes than big inept producers allowed to monopolize the world's resources in the first place? The protectionist Band-Aid does not address these root causes. In fact, by protecting inept domestic producers from foreign competition, protectionism often makes matters worse.

Letters

continued from page 9

Buy Radio

Libertarians ought to . . . get hold of some important mechanisms for propaganda, like radio/TV stations. My personal view is that radio stations offer the best potential for the dollar. TV is costly to program and tends to attract the dense.

I believe the coming recession is going to turn into a stemwinder. The effect, among other things, will be a big increase in the number of radio stations placed out for sale. A few owners will be forced to pull the plug and turn in their licenses. Others will sell for whatever they can get. When these opportunities arise I'd love to see a band of libertarians pool their resources and get hold of some stations. They could network together and make quite a dent on the thinking of audiences everywhere.

John Wrisley
Columbia, SC

Recruitment

I think each member ought to try to submit five names of persons he sincerely feels might join, or contribute to, or be otherwise beneficial to the Libertarian Party. I am submitting a list of 25 names whom I know to be strongly oriented toward libertarian beliefs. I feel that at least 75 percent of them will join. We must plan now for '96.

John Davis
Las Vegas, NV

Correction

In a mailing to state chairs and membership chairs, the rules for the membership contest were given on a sheet headed "TAKE THE CHALLENGE: A LIBERTARIAN PARTY MEMBERSHIP CONTEST." There is an error in the last sentence of the paragraph which describes the third contest category.

The third category is "growth in dues-paying members per million population." That is, the number of members at the end of the contest period, minus the number of members at the beginning of the period, divided by the

population of the state. The first sentence refers to "growth." The example given in the second sentence is also correct. But in the third sentence, the one beginning "The state with the highest . . .," neither the word "growth" nor the word "increase" occurs—this is incorrect, and could lead to confusion.

If you are a state chair or regional representative, please make sure the membership chairs in your state or region have the correct information. All three measures being used for this contest are based on INCREASE in membership. For a summary of definitions of the various measures involved, and examples of actual values of these measures for a recent period, see [my article in the February Libertarian Party NEWS].

Joseph W. Dehn, III
Littleton, CO

Letter to the NRA

J. Warren Cassidy
National Rifle Association
1600 Rhode Island Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20036

I want to thank you for the consideration your organization has shown the Libertarian Party in recent months. I especially appreciate the kind words you had for Dr. Paul.

It may interest you to know that we have received 92 information requests to date as a result of your printing our 800 number in the January issue. I will update you further if you would like. A member in Oregon just received their copy today, so surely more is yet to come.

I sympathize with your position regarding supporting the candidates that are most likely to win. I realize that the LP has not made a considerable showing to date. However, I can assure you that whoever the Libertarian candidates are, they will support the rights of gun owners everywhere.

For Liberty!

D. Nick Dunbar
Libertarian Party National Director

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Upcoming Events

April 6-7, 1990:

Illinois LP Convention; 708-475-0391.

April 6-7, 1990:

Wisconsin LP Convention, Holiday Inn, Milwaukee; 414-375-0068.

April 8, 1990:

Massachusetts LP Convention, Marriott Newton Motel, Newton, MA; 617-426-4402.

April 13, 1990:

Thomas Jefferson's Birthday.

April 14, 1990:

New Mexico LP Convention, Holiday Inn Pyramid, Albuquerque; 505-425-5077. Speakers include Marshall Fritz and Karl Hess, Jr.

April 16, 1990:

Tax Protest Day.

April 20-22, 1990:

Michigan LP Convention, Ramada Inn, Southfield; 313-977-6628.

April 20, 1990:

Pennsylvania LP Convention, "Building Local Chapters," Wilson World Hotel, Morgantown; 215-545-6994. Speakers include Andre Marrou and Irv Homer.

April 21, 1990:

Montana LP Convention, Val-U-Inn, Missoula. Speakers include LP National Field Coordinator Marla Bottemiller.

April 21-22, 1990:

Ohio LP Convention, Columbus; 800-669-6542. Speakers include Don Ernsberger.

April 20-22, 1990:

Colorado LP Convention, Ft. Collins Holiday Inn, Ft. Collins; 303-837-9393. Speakers include Walter Williams.

April 28-29, 1990:

National Committee Meeting, Austin, TX; 512-467-1776. To receive agenda packet, 202-543-1988.

April 1990:

Vermont LP Convention; 802-482-3075.

May 4-6, 1990:

Maine LP Convention; May 4—Kennebunkport, speaker Gene Burns; May 5—Bangor, speaker Russell Means; May 6—Auburn, speaker Richard Gould, member Maine House of Reps.; 207-353-9711.

May 5, 1990:

South Carolina LP Convention, Quality Inn Broad River, Columbia.

May 12, 1990:

Indiana LP Convention; 317-463-6601.

May 25-27, 1990:

Florida LP Convention, Plaza Inn, Orlando; 904-633-9838. Speakers include Larry Dodge.

May 1990:

Maryland LP Convention; 202-328-0099.

May 1990:

Alaska LP Convention; 907-479-4250.

June 2, 1990:

Arizona LP Convention, Westward Look Resort, Tucson; 602-323-1656.

June 9, 1990:

Texas LP Convention, El Tropicano Hotel, San Antonio; 512-467-1776.

June 9, 1990:

Washington State LP Convention; 206-329-5669.

August 10-14, 1990:

Future of Freedom/ISIL Conference, San Francisco, CA; 415-864-0952.

August 11-12, 1990:

National Committee Meeting, San Francisco, CA; 415-731-3031.

August 11, 1990:

Council of LP State Chairs Meeting, San Francisco, CA; 818-796-8231.

October 1990:

Maryland LP Convention; 202-328-0099.

December 8-9, 1990:

National Committee Meeting, New York City; 914-633-5137.

April 1991:

National Committee Meeting, Atlanta, GA; 404-957-6825.

August 28-September 1, 1991:

"Liberty Triumphant," LP Presidential Nominating Convention, Chicago Marriott, Chicago; 708-475-0391.

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